

Applicant : Lam, et al.
Serial No. : 09/914,543
Filed : January 17, 2002
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Attorney's Docket No.: 56446-20005.02/
-007US1/D1150-5US

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Pending claims

Claims 1 to 16 as filed are pending.

Claims canceled, added and amended in the instant amendment

Claims 17 to 52 are added and claims 3 and 10 to 13 are canceled, without prejudice. Thus, after entry of the instant amendment, claims 1, 2, 4 to 9, and 14 to 52 will be pending and under consideration.

Support for the Claim Amendments

The specification sets forth an extensive description of the invention in the new and amended claims. For example, support for claims directed to polypeptides having an endoglucanase activity or a cellulase activity, such as a carboxymethyl cellulase activity, can be found, inter alia, on page 1, first paragraph, and page 11, second full paragraph. Support for claims directed to polypeptides having conservative substitutions of exemplary polypeptides of the invention can be found, inter alia, in the paragraph spanning pages 10 and 11, and, page 22, fourth paragraph. For example, support for claims directed to nucleic acids that hybridize under stringent conditions to nucleic acids of the invention can be found, inter alia, in the paragraph spanning pages 8 and 9. Support for claims directed to polypeptides or nucleic acids having various sequence identities to exemplary polypeptides or nucleic acids of the invention can be found, inter alia, on page 20, first three paragraphs, and page 22, first paragraph. Support for claims directed to nucleic acids comprising probes of varying lengths can be found, inter alia, on page 8, lines 9 to 16, and page 13, first full paragraph, and the paragraph spanning pages 13 and 14. Support for claims directed to various host cells can be found, inter alia, on page 24, fourth full paragraph, and the paragraph spanning pages 25 and 26, and the last paragraph on page 27.

The Group Restriction Requirement

The Patent Office alleged that the pending claims of the application are directed to twenty-five (XXV) separate and distinct inventions under 35 U.S.C. §121.

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The Group Election

In response to the group restriction requirement, Applicants elect with traverse Group XXIII, claims 1-9 and 14-16, drawn to a polypeptide having a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:46, and, in one aspect, encoded by SEQ ID NO:45, and vectors and host cells comprising the polynucleotides.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that the all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

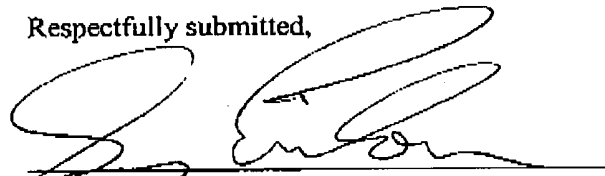
Applicants believe that no additional fees are necessitated by the present response and amendment. However, in the event any such fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees to Deposit Account No. 03-1952. Please credit any overpayment to this account.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 858 720 5133.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

May 10, 2004


Gregory P. Einhorn
Reg. No. 38,440

Morrison & Foerster LLP
3811 Valley Centre Drive, Suite 500
San Diego CA 92130
direct dial 858 720 5133
fax 858 720 5125

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